

# I Have A Plan Iowa™ Benefits for You

I Have A Plan Iowa™ is available to students and job seekers of all ages. Whether you are entering the workforce for the first time or changing careers, I Have A Plan Iowa™ offers the following resources to help you invest in your future:

- Engaging interests, values and skills assessments
- Searchable database of college programs and majors
- A resume builder
- A job search database
- Job interview practice sessions

## I Have A Plan Iowa™ Provided by Iowa College Aid



In addition to administering the state-designated career information system, I Have A Plan Iowa™, Iowa College Aid is a state agency with over 40 years of experience connecting students and families with the essential resources and services they need to plan, prepare and pay for college.

For more information, visit our website at:  
[www.iowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.iowaCollegeAid.gov).

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IC - ParentGuide

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# I Have A Plan Iowa™ PARENT GUIDE

Prepare Your Child for an Education & Career



## I Have A Plan Iowa™ can help your child...

- Explore careers as early as elementary school with Paws in Jobland;
- Create meaningful course plans to achieve education and career goals.
- Discover skills, values and strengths through engaging assessments;
- Find education and career opportunities based on assessment results;
- Prepare for the ACT and SAT college admission exams through free, interactive test preparation;
- Research financial aid options;
- Search for scholarships;
- Record work, volunteer and other activities;
- Build resumes and practice for job interviews.



[www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov](http://www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov)



Provided by Iowa College Aid

**Encourage your child to dream and help make that dream come true.**

As a parent, you play an important role in helping your child plan and prepare for the future. It is important that you encourage your child to begin career planning as early as possible. I Have A Plan Iowa™ allows your child to explore their interests, identify career goals and connect those goals to the education and training needed.

Get Involved in your child's K-12 school experience!

www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov



## What is I Have A Plan Iowa™?

I Have A Plan Iowa™ is a comprehensive web-based planning tool that assists Iowans as they explore education and career options. Through I Have A Plan Iowa™, students can explore career possibilities, investigate education pathways and view college financial aid information. I Have A Plan Iowa™ is provided for free to all Iowans by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid).

## The Advantages of Early Career Planning

Early career planning helps your child make good decisions as they progress through elementary and secondary school. Participation in career exploration helps create awareness of the many career options available and the steps needed to reach career goals.

A lack of career focus can cause students to drop out of college or spend extra money and years in college obtaining their degree.

Career planning is a continual process. Your child's career plan may change as they gather more information along the way. The plan is there to guide their decision making process.

## I Have A Plan Iowa™ Helps Your Child Prepare for High School, College and a Career

The tools provided in I Have A Plan Iowa™ allow your student to:

- Develop decision-making skills
- Understand how career planning can help achieve goals
- Expand his or her knowledge of how educational achievement relates to career opportunities
- Learn how individual interests, values and skills connect to careers
- Acquire skills needed to research careers and educational institutions
- Increase their motivation to improve academic achievement

*"The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn."*

- John Lubbock



## Iowa Guideways - What's Required?

Iowa Code requires that all students, beginning in the 8th grade, create a course plan for high school which supports their career options and education plans. Each child must share the plan with a parent or guardian. As a parent, you will review your child's plan and approve it.

Each year your child will complete the grade-specific Guideway in I Have A Plan Iowa™. The Guideway leads the student through the steps necessary to fulfill the State of Iowa requirements and to build a solid plan for the future.

## Attention Parents of 8th Graders!

### Approving an 8th Grade Plan of Study

Your child will most likely complete the 8th Grade Guideway and create a Plan of Study, which requires a parent approval. He or she may bring a paper copy of their Plan of Study home for you to sign, or invite you to view and approve their Plan of Study electronically. If your child chooses to invite you to approve his or her plan electronically, you will receive an email invitation from support@secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov. The email will include directions for account creation and plan approval. Additional information can be found on the Parent of a Student page at www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov.

